

## TAKE FIRST STEP

Good Roads Boosters to Number of 250 Meet.

Organize the Kaw Valley Improved Highway Association.

ARE GUESTS OF LAWRENCE

H. S. Putney of Topeka Is Elected President.

Will Meet Again in Kansas City, Kan., March 23.

Two hundred and fifty men from twenty-five Kaw Valley towns, guests of the Merchants and Farmers' association at Lawrence last night, organized the Kaw Valley Improved Highway association, the first real step toward building a hard surface road between the three cities. Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City. H. S. Putney, president of the Topeka Automobile association, was elected president of the new association. W. P. Montgomery, assistant attorney general, temporary secretary.



H. S. Putney, Elected President of the New Kaw Valley Improved Highway Association at Lawrence Last Night.

Representatives from half a dozen different towns in the valley on both sides of the river were chosen to act as vice presidents, choosing their own committees and feel out sentiment among the farmers. On March 23 another meeting will be held at Kansas City Kan. Meeting the vice-presidents will appoint committees, comprising interested farmers and townsmen, who will talk Good Roads on both sides of the river, and arrive in Kansas City with definite knowledge regarding the temporary decision of the most interested persons in the movement, those who must foot the bill.

Facts About Kansas.

Time and again the dozen or more speakers brought out deplorable facts concerning Kansas and her roads, brought home so clearly in a Good Roads article appearing in the Topeka State Journal, City Star and Quoting statements made by Frank P. MacLennan in a recent editorial appearing in the Topeka State Journal. Some of the statements quoted were:

Annually raises a wheat crop worth more than all the gold and silver, oranges, lemons and grapefruits of California.

Has the greatest per capita wealth of any state in the Nation—\$1,725.

Has sufficient motor cars so a member of every family in the state could take a ride at the same time.

Has no saloons to filch its surplus or weaken its abilities.

Has low taxes.

Kansas has no city of 100,000 population.

Travelers avoid it.

Arkansas is more progressive in some ways.

Of noble attainments. It plays the pauper.

Begin Right Now.

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W. W. Webb, in his address urged that the next legislature approve submitting to the people an amendment to the present state constitution so that Kansas can participate in federal appropriations now being made. If Kansas were in a position to meet the requirements of the law, her share would be something like \$400,000 of the \$2,000,000 appropriation now before congress.

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In addition to the troubles of Kansas who have failed to repair their flues and chimneys, the sorrows concerning defective stoves, furnaces and pipes were a matter of much concern. The January report shows that stoves, furnaces and pipes were responsible for two fires. Incendiarism was responsible for ten fires, the report shows.

Common winter neglect, the summary shows, was responsible for virtually the entire fire loss of the state. The record for the month shows 246 fires and a total loss of \$247,141. Of the entire loss, \$73,338 per cent was covered by insurance. Loss on buildings during the month amounted to \$149,615, while loss of contents was \$97,526.

Record for January.

The month's fire record was as follows:

Causes	No.	Loss.
Chimneys, flues, etc.	58	\$51,723
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Gas	3	30
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Incendiarism	10	8,780
Lightning—Bldgs. destroyed	2	25
Matches	10	3,270
Miscellaneous	15	900
Open fires	3	965
Open lights	6	767
Gasoline	1	142
Kerosene	11	4,975
Smoking	1	142
Sparks—from combustion	2	2,630
Stoves, furnaces, their pipes	4	43,910
Unknown	41	60,115
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$247,141</b>

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